	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/614,174	TAKASHIMA, KEIICHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James H. Blackwell	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amendment filed 08/31/2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-5,8 and 9*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 20061129

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with John Krause on 11/29/2006 at 09:45 AM EST.

3.   The Claims have been amended as follows:

1.   A form processing device for reading a field data file-storing which stores

~~information corresponding to data~~ values to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields

in a form, and for overlaying the ~~data corresponding to the information~~ values stored in

the read field data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, the form processing

device comprising:

first determination means for determining, based on field definition information

which defines each of the plurality of fields in the form, ~~whether a field associated with~~

~~the information stored in the field data file~~ that at least one of the plurality of fields is

defined as a field onto which an external file is to be overlaid ~~wherein the field definition~~

~~information is different for the field data file~~;

second determination means for determining, ~~when said first determination~~

~~means determines that the field is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be~~

~~overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data~~ that at least

one value stored in the field data file is URL data; and

overlaying means for downloading the external file from a network server based

on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the at least one of the

plurality of fields. ~~field, when said second determination means determines that the~~

~~information stored in the field data file is the URL data~~.

2.   A form processing method for reading a field data file which stores ~~information~~

~~corresponding to data~~ values to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form,

and overlaying the values ~~data corresponding to the information~~ stored in the read field

data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, the form processing method

comprising:

a first determination step of determining, based on field definition information

which defines each of the plurality of fields in the form, that at least one of the plurality

of fields ~~whether each of the fields~~ is defined as a field onto which an external file is to

be overlaid, ~~wherein the field definition information is different from the field data file~~;

a second determination step of determining, ~~when it is determined in said first~~

~~determination step that the field is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be~~

~~overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data~~ that at least

one value stored in the field data file is URL data; and

an overlaying step of downloading the external file from a network server based

on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the <u>at least one of the</u>

<u>plurality of fields.</u> ~~field, when it is determined in said second determination step that the~~

~~information stored in the field data file is the URL data.~~

3.   A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer

to execute a form processing method of reading a field data file which stores ~~information~~

~~corresponding to data~~ <u>values</u> to be overlaid onto each of a plurality of fields in a form,

and overlaying the <u>values</u> ~~data corresponding to the information~~ stored in the read field

data file onto each of the plurality of fields in the form, wherein the method comprises:

        a first determination step of determining, based on field definition information

which defines each of the ura of fields <u>in the form,</u> <u>that at least one of the plurality of</u>

<u>fields</u> ~~whether each of the fields~~ is defined as a field onto which an external file is to be

overlaid, ~~wherein the field definition information is different from the field data file~~;

        a second determination step of determining, ~~when it is determined in said first~~

~~determination step that the field defined as a field onto which an external file is to be~~

~~overlaid, whether the information stored in the field data file is URL data~~ <u>that at least</u>

<u>one value stored in the field data file is URL data</u>; and

        an overlaying step of downloading the external file from a network server based

on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto <u>the at least one of the</u>

<u>plurality of fields.</u> ~~field, when it is determined in said second determination step that the~~

~~information stored in the field data file is the URL data.~~

4.   The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 3, wherein the
method further comprises:

a storing step of storing the <u>downloaded</u> external file, ~~downloaded from the~~
~~network server based on the URL data~~, into a local drive. ~~in association with the URL~~
~~data, wherein said overlaying step includes downloading the external file from the~~
~~network server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto~~
~~the field associated with the information stored in the field data file, when it is~~
~~determined in said second determination step that the information stored in the field~~
~~data file is the URL data and the URL data does not correspond to a URL of the~~
~~external file stored in said storing step~~.

5.   The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4, <u>further</u>
<u>comprising:</u>

<u>a third determination step of determining whether the time stamp of the</u>
<u>downloaded external file stored on the local drive is older that the time stamp of the</u>
<u>external file stored on the network server, wherein:</u>

<u>if the third determination is positive, then the external file stored on the</u>
<u>network server is downloaded and the downloaded external file stored on the local drive</u>
<u>is updated, and</u>

<u>if the third determination is negative, then the downloaded external file</u>
<u>stored on the local drive is retained</u>.

~~wherein said overlaying step includes downloading the external file from the network~~

~~server based on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the field~~

~~associated with the information stored in the field data file, when it is determined in said~~

~~second determination step that a time stamp of the external file stored at said storing~~

~~step is older than a time stamp of the external file in the network server, even if the~~

~~information stored in the field data file is the URL data and the URL data corresponds to~~

~~a URL of the external file stored in said storing step.~~

Claims 6 and 7 are cancelled.

8.   The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 4 <u>3</u>, <u>further</u>

<u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein said storing step includes storing the downloaded external file in~~

~~the local drive if the downloaded external file is smaller than a predetermined file~~

~~capacity.~~

        <u>a third determination step of determining whether the downloaded external file is</u>

<u>smaller than a predetermined file capacity, wherein:</u>

                <u>if the third determination is positive, then the downloaded external file is</u>

<u>stored on a local drive, and</u>

                <u>if the third determination is negative, then the downloaded external file is</u>

<u>not stored on the local drive.</u>

Reasons For Allowance

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, either alone or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the combined limitations of each of the independent claims, especially in regard to the limitations of claim 1 stating that:

"... *first determination means for determining, based on field definition*

information which defines each of the plurality of fields in the form, that at least

one of the plurality of fields is defined as a field onto which an external file is to

be overlaid;

second determination means for determining, that at least one value stored in the

field data file is URL data; and

overlaying means for downloading the external file from a network server based

on the URL data and overlaying the downloaded external file onto the at least one of the

plurality of fields".

5.   The prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the specific method of: determining, while analyzing a file containing field values, whether a given field value is one associated with an external file and; more specifically, if its value is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

6.   The prior art of record further fails to teach or suggest overlaying (populating, "filling in" of "filling out") the content of a file containing such values, that is, values determined to be associated with external file, values associated with URLs, by

retrieving the content (e.g., an image) referenced by the URL and overlaying the image onto the given form field. It is typically the case that the value itself, in this instance the actual URL address string, would have been overlaid onto the form field rather than the content referenced by the URL (e.g., the image).

7.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H. Blackwell whose telephone number is 571-272-4089. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

9.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James H. Blackwell
11/29/2006

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